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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

## DESCRIPTION

The building is constructed of reinforced concrete columns and girders, filled in with hollow tile and finished on the outside with cement stucco. The roof is shingled with clay tile, except for the four towers which are asphalt shingles.

The entire building, over 500 feet in length, is divided into three parts: the central section, a ballroom wing and a dining room wing. The central part, five stories high, is 192 by 96 feet. It contains on the west, the main entrance and on the east, the solarium (74 by 62 feet), a one-story pavilion with large windows on three sides facing Lake Michigan. It also has on the main floor to the north, the men's buffet and smoking room, and on the south side, the card room (remodeled and used as a bar room in recent years).

The middle of the center section is open to the mezzanine story. The latter contains a billiard room, writing room, library, club offices and miscellaneous public rooms. The upper three floors contain 90 sleeping rooms, each with bath. The basement is occupied by service departments.

A grand promenade, 176 feet long and 32 feet wide (interior) bisects the building from north to south, and connects the two wings with the central section. The ballroom, attached on the south, is 130 by 86 feet (exterior). It is a one story structure containing a stage, and is designed in the Roman Letival style. The dining room, also one story high, is at the other (north) end of the grand promenade. Built at the same time as the central section, it is 110 by 60 feet (exterior), oval in plan, with large windows opening to the floor. The kitchen (87 by 145 feet) is located in the basement of the dining room and is connected to it by ramps.

The exterior of the building is in the Mediterranean Resort style. The interior is handsomely decorated with plaster details in an Adam or Federal style. The grounds (65 acres) occupy a three-quarter mile site on Lake Michigan. They contain, in addition to the club house, the former club house a small trap shooting club house, tennis courts, bowling greens, golf course, horse stables and ring, swimming beach, boat harbor, beach house and maintenance? buildings.

## HISTORY

The South Shore Country Club was founded in 1906, by prominent Chicago business leaders, on land obtained from the City of Chicago. The architects of the buildings and grounds were Marshall and Fox, whose works also included the Drake Hotel (destroyed) and many prominent apartment houses. The club was unique not only because it is in the city, but also because of its size and range of activities. The original club house is two and one-half stories tall and of "light" (presumably frame) construction.

Shortly after completing the original club house, a ballroom of concrete construction was erected (in about 1908) on the south side. In 1916 the original club house was moved several hundred feet to the southeast, where it remains in altered use and physically poor condition. The present club house and dining room was then constructed on the site of the original club house, the ballroom remaining in its original position. Among the persons the club hosted through the years were the late Edward, Prince of Wales, Queen Marie of Romania, Prince Albert of Eelgium, President Taft, Buffalo Bill Cody, and Will Rogers.

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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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SOUTH SHORE COUNTRY CLUB(Continuation Sheet)

7. Description, cont.

Form 10-300a

(July 1969)

The South Shore Country Club is now in the process of disbanding, and the premises have been purchased by the Public Building Commission of Chicago, for the use and ultimate acquisition by the Chicago Park District. The property, which is immediately adjacent (south of) to Frederick Law Olmsted's Jackson Park, site of the Columbian Exposition of 1893, will become part of the park system in Chicago. It will be used for recreation, but the future of the club house is uncertain at this time.

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## SIGNIFICANCE

In the heart of Chicago the existence of the magnificent ensemble of early 20th Century buildings, open spaces, gardens and sports facilities, basically unchanged for almost 60 years, is unique. The main club house, because of its size and architectural treatment is the focal point of the entire premises. Reminiscent of Palm Beach or Newport, it is architecturally a link to the past, and historically important in the social history of Chicago and the nation as a demonstration of a lifestyle that has become extinct, at least in any big city.

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Architectural Record, XL (No	v. 1916	), 418-432.	•	·	
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Original Club House Building (June 1, 1907), 220.	: <u>Amer</u>	ican Archite	ect & Bui	lding News,	XCI
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